

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BANGKO 17233 151342Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20  
IO-14 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 /105 W  
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R 151040Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6329  
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
AMEMBASSY MANILA  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 17233

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ECON, ASEAN  
SUBJ: ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING

1. ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING OPENED JUNE 14 IN PATTAYA. CEREMONIAL OPENING SESSION CONSISTED OF WELCOME SPEECH BY PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK AND INDIVIDUAL ADDRESSES BY THE FIVE ASEAN FOREIGN MISISTERS AND PAPUA NEW GUINEA FONMIN WHO WAS PRESENT AS OBSERVER. MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND PRESS WERE PERMITTED TO ATTEND. IN ADDITION TO NON-COMMUNIST REPRESENTATIVES, RUSSIANS, EASTERN EUROPEANS AND CHINESE CHARGE WERE PRESENT. VIETNAMESE AND LAO ABSENTED THEMSELVES.

2. IN THE INDIVIDUAL SPEECHES OF THE FIVE ASEAN FONMINS, THERE WERE SEVERAL COMMON THEMES:

A. A SENSE OF SATISFACTION OVER ASEAN'S PROGRESS TO DATE AS IT MOVES INTO ITS SECOND DECADE, COUPLED WITH RECOGNITION OF THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS FACING THE GROUP.

B. PUBLICLY EXPRESSED CONCERN BY ALL OF THE FONMINS  
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 17233 151342Z

REGARDING INDOCHINESE SITUATION, FOCUSING BOTH ON VIET NAM-CAMBODIAN FIGHTING AND TENSIONS BETWEEN VIET NAM, SUPPORTED BY USSR, AND CHINA. ATL EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THERE COULD BE PEACEFUL RESOLUTION AND WARNED OF DANGER TO PEACE AND STABILITY.

C. APPRECIATION FOR SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF FRIENDLY

COUNTRIES SUCH AS JAPAN, US AND EC, WHILE STRESSING NEED FOR CONCRETE RESULTS SOON FROM DIALOGUE FROM THE THREE: AND

D. RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF CHINA TO AREA AND A NOTE OF APPRECIATION FOR ITS RECOGNITION OF ASEAN.

3. ALL OF THE FONMIN SPEECHES DEALT WITH VERY BROAD BRUSH ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTH EAST ASIA, WITH ECONOMIC ISSUES TOUCHED ON IN GENERAL FASHION. ALL BUT THAI FONMIN UPADIT MADE REFERENCE TO DIALOGUE WITH US.

4. KRIANGSAK'S SPEECH WAS VERY GENERAL. HE COMMITTED THAILAND TO A ZONE OF PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND PLEDGED HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD MAINTAIN POLITICAL STABILITY BASED ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL WELL BEING AS A CONTRIBUTION TO COLLECTIVE ASEAN RESILIENCE. KRIANGSAK STATED THAT IF ASEAN CANNOT MAINTAIN A COHERENT AND VIABLE ENTITY AMONG THE FIVE COUNTRIES, THERE WOULD BE LITTLE PROSPECT FOR WIDER REGIONAL ENDEAVORS. AFTER GIVING SPEECH KRIANGSAK MET DELEGATES AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS BRIEFLY AND THEN DEPARTED.

5. FOLLOWING FORMAL OPENING SESSION, ASEAN FONMINS BEGAN TWO DAYS OF CLOSED WORKING SESSIONS WITH RESPONSE TO US INVITATION FOR WASHINGTON MINISTERIAL BEING FIRST ON THE UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 BANGKO 17233 151342Z

AGENDA. PRESS REPORTS TODAY THAT AFTER LENGTHY FOUR HOUR MEETING AFTERNOON OF JUNE 14 MINISTERS AGREED TO ACCEPT US PROPOSAL FOR AUGUST 3-4 MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND THAT THE TENTATIVE AGENDA HAD BEEN ACCEPTED. WHILE NOT SPECIFIC, PRESS STORIES GIVE IMPRESSION THAT MOST IF NOT ALL ASEAN FONMINS INCLUDING UPPADIT ARE PLANNING TO ATTEND, ALONG WITH SENIOR ECONOMIC MINISTERS. WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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